IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the full paragraph spanning pages 14 and 15 of the Specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— Referring back to FIG. 5 7, this iterative process repeats until all of the code blocks pass the CRC or until some other iteration termination criteria causes the iterative decoding process to terminate. Output buffer 770 then provides the decoded code word to the appropriate components or systems. As discussed above, in some embodiments, output buffer 770 provides the decoded code word or code blocks to ECC decoder 765 for ECC decoding, while in other embodiments, ECC decoding is not necessary. —

Please replace the first and second full paragraphs of page 15 of the Specification with the following replacement paragraphs:

— Referring now to FIG. 8-1, shown in block diagram form is an embodiment of one of decoding components 760 (for example decoding component 760-1) in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 8-1, the de-interleaved data (from de-interleaver 445/745) is provided to a posterior message passing computation component 805. Component 805 performs the TPC decoding functions represented in block 450 of FIG 4. The output or posterior message computation results 806 from component 805 are provided to CRC check 810 (implemented for example in CRC decoder 460 shown in FIG. 4), and the corresponding extrinsic information computation results 807 are provided to a first input of a multiplexer or switching device 825. A second input 821 to the multiplexer 825 is provided by a predetermined extrinsic information component 820. Predetermined extrinsic information component 820 provides at its output the extrinsic information representing the artificially high log-likelihood ratios for the code block being processed.

The results of the CRC check on the code block being processed are provided at 811 to finite state machine 815 which uses the results to generate a control parameter or signal 816 for controlling which of its two inputs multiplexer 825 provides at output 826. Output 826 of multiplexer 825 is coupled to interleaver 455/755 shown in FIGS. 4 and 7. If the results of a CRC check on the code block being processed are a "pass" (812), then this code block is passed to the output buffer 770 shown in FIG. 7. —